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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Yoshihito Hagawa

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09/01/2009

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EXAMINER

WARE, DEBORAH K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1651

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/552,542	Applicant(s) HAGAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner DEBBIE K. WARE	Art Unit 1651	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 27,30,33,36,37,43 and 47-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 27,30,33,36,37,43 and 47-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 27, 30, 33, 36-37, 43 and 47-49 are presented for reconsideration on the merits.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 22, 2009, has been entered.

Response to Arguments

The argument that the term "supernatant" is well known in the art is noted. However, although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Furthermore, the teachings of the cited prior art are not the only prior art which may read on "supernatant" and hence the terminology after final did indeed raise new issues for consideration.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election **without** traverse of Group I, claims remaining 27, 30, 33, 36-37, 43, and 47-48 in the reply filed on March 11, 2008, is acknowledged. All non-elected claims have been canceled.

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file. This case is a 371 of PCT/JP04/05089 filed April 8, 2004, and the Japanese document from which foreign priority is claimed from is dated April 8, 2003.

Response to Amendment

Applicants' amendment filed April 22, 2009, has been received and entered. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statements (IDSs) submitted on October 11, 2005 and April 3, 2007 have been received and entered. The submissions are in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statements are being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 27, 30, 33, 36-37, 43 and 47-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 27 is rendered vague and indefinite for failing to recite proper Markush language for the selection of a whey protein derivative as newly cited in lines 3-4.

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Furthermore, the terms "isolated" and "removing solid matters" render the claims unclear because it is uncertain how the bodies are being isolated per se; and also how "removing solid matters" defines or clearly describes "a supernatant". The dependent claims are rejected for these reasons as well because they incorporate the language which is rejected in claim 27. Furthermore the term "supernatant" is described to "of the culture" but it is not clear which culture is referred to, that of which is selected from (i) or (ii). Claim 30 lacks antecedent basis for the recitation of "the residue" at line 3.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed April 22, 2009, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The argument that the terms are described in the specification is noted. However, although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 27 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by newly cited Perlman (USP 3021262), cited on enclosed PTO-892 Form.

Claims are drawn to a feed supplement comprising a supernatant of culture.

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Perlman teach a feed supplement comprising a supernatant of culture which can be in the form of a dried product and fed to chicks. Note col. 11, lines 25-50.

The claims are identical to the cited disclosure and are, therefore, considered to be anticipated by the teachings of the cited reference.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 27, 30, 33, 36-37, and 49 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Sobol et al (6953574) in view of EP 1 112 692 A1.

Claims are drawn to a feed supplement comprising a lactic acid bacterium belonging to *Lactobacillus gasseri* OLL 2716 prepared on a medium containing whey.

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The feed supplement wherein the culture is a liquid product or dried product prepared by lyophilisation (freeze drying or spray drying methods). The supplement can further contain milk component.

Sobol et al teach a feed supplement, note col. 5, lines 60-63, wherein the supplement contains *Lactobacillus gasseri* bacterium, note col. 7, line 62. The culture is obtained by adding the bacterium to a medium containing whey protein, col. 5, lines 20-25 and col. 6, lines 45-46, 54-58 and col. 6, lines 65-67; and col. 7, lines 3-6, wherein a neutralization culturing is disclosed because the pH of the culture medium is held near 7.0 (i.e. 6.5), of which will neutralize the culture. Also note col. 7, lines 45-55 and 65-62. Also note col. 9, lines 9-19 wherein the sediment or treated product if you will is formed into a dried product wherein the treated product is lyophilized (i.e. freeze dried). The supplement is useful for treating intestinal diseases, note col. 10, lines 65-67. The supplement further comprises a milk component too, see col. 5, line 29. Further, the supplement is used on farms in animal husbandry, col. 5, lines 50-54, such as livestock (e.g. calf).

EP '692 teaches *Lactobacillus gasseri* OLL 2716 (FERM BP-6999) useful in a food product, and furthermore that the *L. gasseri* can be pulverized or crushed, note page 9, [0033], lines 34-39.

Claims differ from Sobol in that the specific strain of *L. gasseri* is not disclosed, nor is the crushed form of the *L. gasseri*.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to select for the feed supplement of Sobol et al the specific

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strain *L. gasseri* OLL 2716 as disclosed by EP '692 because the specific strain is disclosed to possess pharmaceutical efficacy for food products. Therefore, to select for the specific strain, one of skill in the art would have expected successful results for its use in a feed supplement as claimed herein. Each of the claims are taught, or at least suggested, by the cited prior art. In the absence of persuasive evidence to the contrary the claims are deemed *prima facie* obvious over the cited prior art.

Claims 43 and 47-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Racek (US 2002/0146399) in view of Sobol et al and EP' 692, cited above.

Claims are discussed above and are further drawn to a feed supplement wherein the culture contained by it (the supplement) is obtainable by inoculating the bacterium to a medium containing whey protein and the treated product can be a freeze dried product and further the feed supplement contains an excipient which is a starch.

Raczek teaches a feed supplement comprising a lactic acid bacterium belonging to *Lactobacillus gasseri*, note abstract, page 2, columns 1-2, [0012], lines 2-3, [0013], lines 3-5, [0014], lines 1-2 and 10-11 and [0036], line 1, and page 3, column 1, [0054], lines 12-14 and [0055], lines 1-2 and method taught at page 4, column 2, claims 11 and 12-15, (especially note claim 13) for administering to a calf (e.g. a young livestock), note page 3, [0055], lines 1-2.

Sobol et al teach a feed supplement, note col. 5, lines 60-63, wherein the supplement contains *Lactobacillus gasseri* bacterium, note col. 7, line 62. The culture is obtained by adding the bacterium to a medium containing whey protein, col. 5, lines 20-25 and col. 6, lines 45-46, 54-58 and col. 6, lines 65-67; and col. 7, lines 3-6, wherein a

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neutralization culturing is disclosed because the pH of the culture medium is held near 7.0 (i.e. 6.5), of which will neutralize the culture. Also note col. 7, lines 45-55 and 65-62. Also note col. 9, lines 9-19 wherein the sediment or treated product if you will is formed into a dried product wherein the treated product is lyophilized (i.e. freeze dried). The supplement is useful for treating intestinal diseases, note col. 10, lines 65-67. The supplement further comprises a milk component too, see col. 5, line 29. Further, the supplement is used on farms in animal husbandry, col. 5, lines 50-54, such as livestock (e.g. calf).

EP '692 teaches *Lactobacillus gasseri* OLL 2716 (FERM BP-6999) useful in a food product, and furthermore that the *L. gasseri* can be pulverized or crushed, note page 9, [0033], lines 34-39.

The claims differ from Raczek in that the specific strain in whey is not clearly disclosed.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select for the method of Raczek the feed supplement of Sobol et al using the specific strain of EP '692 to improve intestinal flora of a young livestock such as a calf because the prior art clearly teach that *L. gasseri* is useful in animal feed and the strain OLL 2716 has also shown success in food as well. Therefore, one of skill would have expected successful results since each of the claim features are taught, or at least suggested, by the cited prior art combination as discussed herein and above.

The treatment of young livestock is common place in animal husbandry because of its relationship to animal rearing, and treating method using the disclosed supplement

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for a calf is intrinsic to the teaching of animal husbandry by Sobol et al. The treatment of a calf would have been an obvious modification of the cited prior art. A treated product is further disclosed and can be dried by lyophilization which is a form of freeze drying or can be performed by drum drying, as disclosed by EP '692, see page 5, [0014], lines 1-5. The treated product can be in liquid or dry form as well. The milk component clearly reads on the claimed presence of an excipient ingredient. In the absence of persuasive evidence to the contrary the claims are deemed prima facie obvious over the cited prior art.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed April 22, 2009, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The motivation to select for *L. gasseri* OLL 2716 comes from the knowledge gleaned from the reference that it is used in food. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would have expected successful results for using it as a supplement. Besides the intended use of the product is not given any patentable weight per se because the product must stand on its own weight in terms of its patentability. Also Applicants' claims do not necessarily omit the presence of other ingredients such as sea product. Furthermore, in response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

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All claims fail to be patentably distinguishable over the state of the art discussed above and cited on the enclosed and previously submitted PTO-892 and/or PTO-1449. Therefore, the claims are properly rejected.

The remaining references listed on the previously enclosed PTO-892 and/or PTO-1449 are cited to further show the state of the art.

No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Deborah K. Ware whose telephone number is 571-272-0924. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Wityshyn can be reached on 571-272-0926. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Deborah K. Ware/
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Examiner
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